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NORTH CAROLINA

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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. HOW DO STOCKS OF CORN, WHEAT AND OATS ON FARMS THIS YEAR COMPARE WITH LAST YEAR?
 2. COMPARE TOTAL SOYBEAN STOCKS ON FARMS THIS YEAR WITH LAST YEAR.
 3. DID TOTAL EGG PRODUCTION IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1949 EXCEED 1950?
 4. HOW MANY LAYERS WERE ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS DURING DECEMBER?
 5. HOW MUCH MILK WAS PRODUCED ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS DURING DECEMBER?
 6. DID SLAUGHTER OF LIVESTOCK INCREASE OR DECREASE IN NOVEMBER COMPARED TO OCTOBER?
 7. HOW MANY ACRES OF IRISH POTATOES HAVE COMMERCIAL GROWERS INDICATED THEY WOULD PLANT THIS YEAR?

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 77

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 15, 1951

JANUARY 1, 1951 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL FARM CONDITIONS

The month of December was cold with freezing temperatures occurring throughout the State. Average temperatures were from 3 degrees to 6 degrees below normal. Nighttime temperatures dropped below freezing on twenty or more days during the month in most areas outside the coastal plains.

Rainfall amounts for the month were near or above normal in the mountains and the western part of the coastal plains area. As of January 1, soil moisture was generally satisfactory, although there were local areas in widely scattered sections of the State where soil moisture varied from dry to too wet. Generally, small grain crops are in only poor to fair condition with some freeze damage occurring to these crops.

Corn harvesting continued during December, and indications are that about 10 percent of the 1950 crop remained in fields on January 1, 1951. Practically all cotton, soybeans and lespedeza seed had been harvested prior to January 1.

Supplies of hay, roughages and seed grains are generally adequate in all parts of the State. However, the severe winter has made it necessary to feed more hay and grains than usual to keep livestock in good condition.

The low temperatures experienced this winter have been welcomed by farmers in most parts of the State, particularly those in cotton growing sections where it is hoped that an effective winter kill of boll weevils will be accomplished.

Farmers in general are currently devoting a large part of their time to odd jobs and catch up work around the farm. However, in coastal areas, work is getting underway toward preparing land for planting of early Irish potatoes and early spring truck crops.

Farm income from agriculture during 1950 has in general been pleasingly surprising to most people notwithstanding the disastrous cotton crop.

(Continued on Page 4)

DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD FOR MONTH

Milk production on North Carolina farms during December is estimated at 126 million pounds. Production of milk during December was the highest of record for that particular month. The previous December record was set in 1949 with a production of 121 million pounds.

Milk production during December was two million pounds less than November, which follows the usual seasonal trend. The percent decrease in production during December as compared to November was less than in former years. Farmers are becoming increasingly aware of the advantages of having cows and heifers to freshen during fall and winter months when milk prices are usually higher.

Production per cow in herds during December averaged 337 pounds, which also sets a new record. December production per cow was 9 pounds less than November but 7 pounds more than December 1949.

There were an estimated 375,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms in December, no change from the previous month.

FARM GRAIN STOCKS ABOVE AVERAGE

Stocks of corn on farms in North Carolina as of January 1, 1951 were far above average. However, in spite of record production in 1950, current stocks are slightly below those of a year earlier. This situation is due largely to increased emphasis on corn as a commercial crop and the recent additions of commercial drying and storing facilities in the State, which has facilitated early movement of the crop.

Total farm stocks of corn for the Nation also are slightly below January 1, 1950 but above average.

Current stocks of wheat and oats on farms in the State are above those of a year ago while barley and rye stocks are lower.

For the Nation, all small grains stocks on farms are higher than a year earlier (see table on Page 2).

RECORD HIGH SOYBEAN STOCKS

Stocks of soybeans on farms in North Carolina as of January 1, 1951 totaled 1,484,000 bushels. This is 29 percent of production from

(Continued on Page 4)

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS NOW REPORTING 1950 FARM CENSUS

INFORMATION TO TAX LISTERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Report Your 1950 Crop Acreage Through Tax Lister During January, 1951

Your local Tax Lister is required to make the records but Farm Owners or Tenants must furnish the facts. Therefore, call your list taker's attention to these records and be prepared to furnish the following information: (1) Acreage for each crop harvested during calendar year 1950. (2) Number of cows, sows and hens on farm January, 1951. (3) Number of people living on farm January, 1951. All of the above information furnished will be considered as confidential and will not be used in any manner that is detrimental to the farmers concerned. It is not used for tax purposes.

HAVE YOUR FARM REPORT READY FOR YOUR TAX LISTER!

(The above is a part of the Chowan County tax listing notice).

JANUARY 1 FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	AVERAGE 1940-49	1950	1951	AVERAGE 1940-49	1950	1951
THOUSAND BUSHELS						
CORN.....	39,457	54,256	54,069	2,001,078	2,405,778	2,160,548
WHEAT.....	2,202	1,247	1,305	367,973	326,942	335,670
OATS.....	2,947	3,546	4,151	799,113	824,510	907,660
BARLEY.....	227	315	249	153,096	106,494	139,338
RYE.....	86	48	37	14,765	4,803	7,279

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER INCREASES

Commercial slaughter of cattle and hogs in North Carolina during November showed an increase over the same month a year ago and also over slaughter during October. This includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.

Commercial slaughter in N. C. during November totaled 17,414,000 pounds. Slaughter during November compares with 16,156,000 pounds slaughtered in October and 15,499,000 pounds slaughtered during November a year ago.

November slaughter of 8,300 head of cattle was 4 percent more than the number slaughtered in October and 8 percent more than the number slaughtered in November 1949.

Veal production during November totaled 744,000 pounds from the slaughter of 4,100 calves. This was less than the number slaughtered in October.

The number of hogs slaughtered increased seasonally during November. Pork production totaled 9,574,000 pounds from the slaughter of 40,000 hogs.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

SPECIES	November				January-November Total			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950
CATTLE.....	7.7	8.3	6,491	7,087	74.2	79.4	61,074	65,279
CALVES.....	4.3	4.1	695	744	67.6	52.7	11,094	9,023
SHEEP & LAMBS.....	.2	.1	14	9	2.3	1.9	186	167
HOGS.....	35.0	40.0	8,299	9,574	306.0	349.0	68,660	78,185

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter. a/ Revised.

BROILER OPERATIONS IN THE CHATHAM-WILKES AND THE 7 PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS, BY MONTHS, 1950

MONTH	CHATHAM-WILKES AREA, 1950					PLACEMENTS IN 7 PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS b/		
	EGGS SET	CHICKS HATCHED	CHICKS PLACED	ESTIMATED MARKET BROILERS	BROILER PRICES F.O.B. FARM a/		1949 c/	1950 d/
					1949	1950		
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	CENTS		(000)	
JANUARY	2,931	1,180	1,242	1,264	.29	.21	26,266	24,370
FEBRUARY	2,558	1,768	1,586	1,072	.26	.24	26,334	26,301
MARCH	2,546	1,987	1,769	867	.28	.30	27,714	32,508
APRIL	2,764	2,405	2,136	1,637	.29	.36	35,147	37,475
MAY	2,021	1,559	1,535	1,605	.26	.25	27,509	27,817
JUNE	1,921	1,496	1,777	1,531	.25	.26	25,664	28,460
JULY	2,226	1,717	2,238	1,851	.26	.36	24,868	35,947
AUGUST	1,707	1,229	1,660	1,589	.28	.30	18,467	28,554
SEPTEMBER	2,251	1,581	2,100	2,088	.28	.30	25,742	35,888
OCTOBER	2,136	1,452	1,692	1,524	.26	.26	26,140	26,895
NOVEMBER	2,149	1,641	1,572	1,522	.29	.24	24,840	26,350
DECEMBER	2,316	1,911	1,751	2,021	.26	.22	29,534	36,322
TOTAL	26,626	19,926	21,058	18,571	.27	.28	318,225	366,887

a/ From Federal-State Market News Service, four market average: Durham, Greensboro, Siler City and Raleigh.

b/ East Conn., Delaware-Maryland, Virginia-West Va. - Shenandoah Valley, North Carolina, Chatham-Wilkes, N. Georgia, N. W. Arkansas, Texas.

c/ Revised. d/ Preliminary.

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Egg production during December is estimated at 48 million eggs or 2 million below production in November. Egg production during December of 1949 totaled 55 million eggs or 14.6 percent above the past December.

Total egg production in North Carolina during the 1950 calendar year exceeded the 1949 calendar year production by 5 million eggs.

There were 7,880,000 layers on North Carolina farms during December 1950 as compared to 8,068,000 layers during December of 1949. This is a decrease of 2.3 percent.

The rate of lay was less in December of 1950 than in December of 1949. The number of eggs laid per 100 hens averaged 642 in December of 1950 as compared with 657 in December of 1949. Weather conditions during December of 1949 were much more favorable for egg production. Freezing weather prevailed during the greater part of the past December.

For the entire year of 1950, U. S. egg production totaled 59,443,000,000 eggs, a record high production, 5 percent more than 1949 and 18 percent above the average.

FARM HAY STOCKS ADEQUATE

It is estimated that 810,000 tons of hay was stocked on farms in North Carolina on January 1, 1951. This is about 18 percent less than farm stocks on the same date last year but about the same as the 1940-49 average. A smaller crop in 1950 than in 1949 along with more intensified feeding during the past several weeks account largely for current stocks being smaller than a year ago.

U. S. farm stocks of 73 million tons on January 1 of this year are about 5 percent above both last year and average for the date.

Farm supplies both in the State and Nation should be adequate to take care of needs until the new crops come into production.

BROILER OPERATIONS INCREASE

The number of eggs set, chicks hatched, and chicks placed with broiler producers in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial Broiler Areas increased during 1950 over 1949. The number of chicks placed increased from 17,848,000 in 1949 to 21,058,000 in 1950. The estimated number of marketable broilers produced in the two areas increased from 16,327,000 in 1949 to 18,571,000 in 1950, an increase of 14 percent.

PROSPECTIVE 1951 COMMERCIAL POTATO ACREAGE LOWEST OF RECORD

Early in January of this year, commercial potato growers in North Carolina expressed intentions to plant only 17,000 acres of the crop this year. If such intentions materialize, this would be the smallest crop since records were begun in 1924. The absence of a government support price for the ensuing crop is the chief reason for the drastic decrease.

Last year, there were 25,700 acres harvested in the State, producing 6,425,000 bushels for an average yield of 250 bushels per acre. The 1940-49 average is 32,550 acres.

The entire 1951 late spring commercial crop which is grown in eleven states is currently estimated to total 125,100 acres. This compares with 153,600 acres harvested in 1950 and the 10-year average of 174,610 acres.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1951 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	ACREAGE		INTENDED ACRES AS PERCENT OF 1950	YIELD PER ACRE	
	1940-49 AVERAGE	1950		1940-49 AVERAGE	1950
-ACRES-					
LATE SPRING:				-BUSHELS-	
NORTH CAROLINA	32,550	25,700	17,000	66	162
CALIFORNIA	58,500	78,000	60,000	77	357
LOUISIANA	21,350	9,000	9,300	103	69
MISSISSIPPI	3,180	700	600	86	96
ALABAMA	23,180	17,500	17,500	100	119
GEORGIA	2,560	1,200	1,200	100	111
SOUTH CAROLINA	12,600	7,500	7,500	100	137
TEXAS	7,980	6,700	5,000	75	69
OKLAHOMA	2,830	1,200	1,200	100	95
ARKANSAS	5,100	2,500	2,000	80	90
TENNESSEE	4,780	3,600	3,800	106	114
GROUP TOTAL...	174,610	153,600	125,100	81	202
					286

FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES TO BE LARGER IN 1951

Farmers will spend more in 1951 for commodities and services used in production than in 1950 and perhaps more than in any other year.

In the first place, income from farming will be larger than in 1950. Farmers tend to buy more of some kinds of things, notably farm machinery, autos, trucks, and fertilizer, when their incomes increase.

Second, improved farming techniques call for increasing cash outlays for farm production. More mechanical power means larger purchases of fuel, oil, repairs, etc. Farmers have been buying an increasing proportion of their seed as new varieties are developed and as hybrid seed has become important.

Third, prices for most things farmers buy for production of crops and livestock will average higher than last year. Prices for practically all manufactured commodities will be higher in 1951 than in 1950. Prices of some seeds may be lower as a result of larger crops last year but most farm grown production goods will also be higher priced this year.

A number of things will tend to lessen the amount that might be spent by farmers for production items in 1951 from that which might be expected to result from the influence of the above factors. Some items will not be available in the quantities farmers may wish to buy.

Cutbacks have already been reported by auto manufacturers and there is a probability that cutbacks will be required in other segments of industry as the impact of the defense program becomes more keenly felt.

Larger tax payments will take a bigger slice of farmers' income in 1951. Federal income tax rates are higher and farm property tax payments are expected to increase from the record high in 1950.

FARM REAL ESTATE: INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE, BY SELECTED STATES

NOVEMBER 1950 WITH COMPARISONS 1/

(1912-14=100)

STATE AND DIVISION	1930	1940	1948	1949		1950		
				MARCH	NOV- EMBER	MARCH	JULY	NOV- EMBER
N. CAROLINA	159	138	324	341	338	344	337	355
S. CAROLINA	104	89	208	224	206	204	201	210
VIRGINIA	134	112	226	246	237	235	236	239
DELAWARE	111	89	163	163	160	158	162	167
MARYLAND	123	100	201	206	204	200	205	214
GEORGIA	100	82	180	195	182	182	180	188
FLORIDA	172	133	210	206	202	210	225	241
S. ATLANTIC	128	107	223	236	227	228	228	237
U. S. ...	115	84	170	175	168	169	172	179

1/ All farm lands with improvements except as indicated.

2/ Figures for November 1950 are preliminary.

3/ Revised.

NORTH CAROLINA LAND VALUES AT NEW PEAK

Prices of farm real estate in North Carolina reached a new peak as of November 1950. The November 1950 index of farm real estate values in North Carolina was 355 percent of the 1912-14 base period value. The index of 355 is the highest of any State in the Nation. Farm real estate values in North Carolina increased 5 percent from November 1949 to November 1950. The same index increased 157.0 percent from March 1940 to November 1950 (see table below).

Prices of farm real estate in the country as a whole advanced 4 percent from July to November 1950. This is in contrast to a 3 percent decline during the same period of 1949 and exceeds the largest previous increase of 3 percent which occurred during the corresponding period in 1943, 1944, and 1946. The national index was 79 percent above the 1912-14 average and 116 percent above the prewar (1935-39) average.

Land values advanced in all States from July to November. The East North Central States showed the largest average gain for any region - 6 percent - but the West North Central, West South Central, and Pacific regions were up 5 percent. The New England, Middle Atlantic, and Mountain States showed increases of 2 to 3 percent.

Current values in North Carolina, Alabama, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and in Kentucky and Tennessee are farthest above their 1920 levels.

INCREASE IN DOLLAR VALUE OF FARM LAND*

Percentages, 1935-39 to Nov. 1950



FARM REPORT

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JANUARY 15, 1951

FARM REPORT

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GENERAL FARM CONDITIONS (Cont.)

The high production of tobacco and higher average prices for major farm commodities have been largely responsible for holding farm income above earlier expectations.

Comments from our reporters indicate that with the exception of a shortage of workers in some areas the farm labor supply is fairly adequate. However, it is expected that the stepped up demand for military personnel will be felt through a reduced supply of farm labor during the coming crop year.

SOYBEAN STOCKS (Continued)

the 1950 crop which amounted to a record 5,117,000 bushels. Current stocks compare with the 1943-49 average of 1,575,000 bushels on farms January 1.

Heavy sales of the 1950 crop came about early in the season primarily as a result of ideal weather conditions during the harvesting period coupled with favorable prices.

Farms stocks in the Nation on January 1 of this year at almost 98 million bushels set a new record for the date, comparing with 61 million bushels a year ago and the average of 56 million bushels.

TOTAL U. S. EMPLOYMENT UP

Civilian employment in the U. S. totaled 61.3 million in November compared with 61.8 million in October and 59.5 million a year ago. About 2.2 million persons are unemployed compared with 3.4 million a year ago. The 8.9 million persons working on farms the latter part of November was about a half million fewer than a year ago.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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U. S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENERAL WEATHER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1950

Wintery conditions, which were first present in North Carolina during the latter part of November, dominated the weather picture throughout most of December. In contrast to the two preceding winters, cold air masses were able to push southeastward from Canada and reached North Carolina with much of their original vigor. The second and third weeks were particularly cold. While rainfall amounts were light in a large portion of the State, there was more than the usual amount of cloudiness during the month as a whole. Hazardous highway conditions prevailed outside of immediate coastal areas on the 28th and 29th brought about freezing rain and sleet.

Temperatures: Average temperatures during December were from 3 to 6 degrees below normal. The greatest departures occurred in eastern sections. An unbroken spell of cold weather prevailed from the

9th through the 22nd in all of North Carolina. During those two weeks temperatures averaged 11 degrees below normal in the southeast and 8 or 9 degrees below elsewhere. Nighttime temperatures dropped below freezing on 20 or more days this month in most areas outside of the Coastal Plains.

Precipitation: Rainfall amounts for the month were near or above normal in the mountains and the immediate coastal area. Elsewhere, precipitation amounts fell short of long period averages. In some areas amounts were from one to two inches below normal. The rainfall distribution throughout the month was unusual in the western half of the State in that almost all of the rain fell before the 10th. Snowfall this month was confined principally to the northwestern counties and even there amounts were not as heavy as during the latter part of November.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL

